

High winds cause damage to student vehicles

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A strong storm system ripped through the University on March 3, resulting in damage across campus that included visible destruction to student vehicles. Several vehicles' windows and windshields shattered. All the damaged vehicles were parked in the residential college parking lots. Winds ranged between 50 and 70 mph, according to the National Weather Service. Cheyenne Aaron, a sophomore business administration major, said her vehicle was parked by Hart College. She found out about the damage to her vehicle from a friend. "The back glass had been shattered and will cost between \$200 and \$400 to repair the damage," Aaron said. Kylie Jo Rouse, a freshman psychology major, was also affected by the storm. Rouse said her vehicle was parked in front of Hester College. "The passenger side window was shattered," Rouse said. "The car next to me, their back windshield got knocked out." Rouse said she received two calls from the Murray State Police Department, which instructed her to take pictures for her insurance company and cover the window to prevent further damage. Interim Police Chief Ryan Orr said the department received 11 reports of damaged vehicles.

Some students, including Rouse and Aaron, struggled to receive help from their insurance agencies. Most insurance agencies require photo evidence proving the cause of damage. Rouse said there was little to no proof of what specifically broke the vehicle windows. "There was really no explanation," Rouse said. "People were trying to find reasons to explain to their insurance." Rouse said she paid for the damage repairs out of pocket since she knew it would take longer to prove to her insurance agency the vehicle was damaged because of the storm. She said after working with Murray Auto Glass, the total cost of repair was around \$200. "It appears either debris from the wind or possible pressure change from the strong wind gusts damaged the vehicle windows," Orr said. In addition to the damages on the residential side of campus, Orr said minor damage occurred to on-campus buildings, fences and trees and to two light poles off campus. Orr said the pole damaged by Alexander Hall is owned by BellSouth, a telecommunications company, and runs electricity, which was later disconnected by Murray Electric. Orr said both Waldrop Street and 16th Street were partially blocked for about six hours, giving the utility companies enough time to replace the poles. Rouse said she was pleased with the staff and police for their assistance in handling the damaged vehicles.



Students' car windows shatter in residential college parking lots during high winds on March 3. *Emma Fisher/The News*



High winds destroy freshman Kylie Jo Rouse's passenger side window. *Photo courtesy of Kylie Jo Rouse*



The panel discusses bodily autonomy through legislation, activism and access to healthcare. *Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/The News*

BODILY AUTONOMY, from page 1

"We know that civil rights are important, and we want to continue the work of fighting for civil rights," Goddard said. "This isn't just about our reproductive freedom because it has so many implications on the lives of so many, and we cannot afford to go back." Goddard also organizes meetings with legislators to give community members the chance to share their stories and the impact certain legislation would have on them. "The people who share our views need encouragement, they need to see us, they need to hear us and they need to know that we are working on our side of the state to help move and progress forward as well," Goddard said. "Folks who are [opposed] to us need to hear from us... they are just going to do what they want to do, so we want to make sure that they're hearing our voice." Scott began her presentation by sharing her personal experience with the concept of bodily autonomy and her decision to make decisions for her and her health. "When I had to get my hysterectomy because of endometriosis, I didn't ask the state legislature for permission," Scott said. As a former state representative, Scott has worked to highlight disparities among Black women and people of color in the health care system. "Black people and other people of color are three to four times more

likely to die from complications during or soon after childbirth than their white peers," Scott said. "The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality among the world's wealthiest countries, and this rate rose 26% from 2010 to 2014." Scott said this disparity with the mortality rate among Black mothers and mothers of color can be attributed to stress caused by racism and the lack of care professionals provide them. Before she was redistricted out of District 41, Scott worked to pass the Maternal Care Act, which would provide women with a number of services during and after pregnancy. "My hope is that since we're now at the bottom, at a place that we cannot possibly get any worse, you will begin to turn around, and any way I can shine a light and support my community, I will do so regardless of whether or not I'm in elected office," Scott said. "It will take all of us, and we must continue fighting to create a healthier Kentucky for all of us. You are the resistance that we need." All panelists say they feel encouraged and hopeful for the future of Kentucky by the number of voters, younger and older, who are now engaged in state politics. "When you bring together young people and elders in that way, y'all, we're going to win," Scott said. "We may not win today, but we are going to win, and we have to keep fighting."

POLICE BEAT

2/26

2:17 a.m.
Hester College
Minors were found to be in possession of alcohol and were referred for Administrative action.

2/27

4:38 p.m.
Collins Center for Industry and Technology Bicycle Rack
A scooter was taken from the bicycle rack and was recovered shortly thereafter.

3/09

Midnight
Residential College
An individual reported unwanted sexual contact from an acquaintance.

3/09

2:00 A.M.
Residential College
An individual reported unwanted sexual contact from someone in a third-degree sexual abuse case.

3/10

12:51 a.m.
Chestnut Street
An individual was arrested for alcohol intoxication in a public place.

Police Beat is compiled with material from the Murray State Crime and Fire Log.

Not all dispatched calls are listed.

Fulbright names Murray State top producer

Erinn Finley

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Murray State became the only regional comprehensive university in Kentucky to be named a top Fulbright-producing university, with four students selected for Fulbright awards for the 2022-23 academic year.

The award is given to universities based on how many scholarships are offered to their students, not how many are accepted, according to the Fulbright website.

Dominique Suiter is the honors student development counselor and a Fulbright Program adviser. She said for that academic year, they had six applicants for the Fulbright scholarship, and four received it.

“I feel like it’s a huge benefit to be named the top or one of the top-producing institutions,” Suiter said. “It shows that even though we are a smaller university, an affordable university, that we can still compete with the bigger universities out there.”

Students can apply to two types of programs within the Fulbright Program. They can either apply to study at a university or be an assistant English teacher in another country. Both these options require students to have a bachelor’s degree.

The program is connected to over 150 different countries and areas, according to the Fulbright Program website, and all the countries have different requirements for their programs.

“On the Fulbright website, you can literally choose out of those countries—140 different countries—but then when you choose one of the countries, it lists a whole profile that they’re looking for from an individual that’s applying,” Suiter said. “As long as you fit those requirements, then you can apply to that country.”

Mallory Woolridge is a 2022 graduate currently completing the English Teaching Assistant program in Germany. She graduated with a double major in history and Spanish with a certificate in German.

In a letter for a Student and Alumni Highlight, Woolridge said she became more interested in the German language and culture after a semester studying abroad in Regensburg, Germany.

“It was a truly transformational experience,” Woolridge said. “Because of my time abroad, I shifted my research project to study the East German secret police, the Stasi, in collaboration with Dr. David Pizzo.”

Woolridge applied to nine other study abroad programs after Regensburg, but all were canceled either because of COVID-19 or the war in Ukraine.

“Despite the setbacks, I was adamant that I would go abroad again,” Woolridge said. “I had the Fulbright program in the back of my mind since sophomore year when I returned from Germany and attended a workshop for interested students hosted by the Honors College.”

In her Student and Alumni Highlight, Woolridge said various faculty and staff in the honors program were pivotal in achieving her goal to study abroad through the Fulbright Program.

Suiter said though HON 120, which allows students to work on applying to national scholarships, is taught through the Honors College, it is available to all students.

“Typically, the students that sign up for the class want to do Fulbright, so from January all the way until May...that’s all we do is work on their essays and the application,” Suiter said.

Beyond the work they do during the semester, Suiter said they also have a Zoom meeting during the summer and continue to work on the applications. After a final review in August, there is a committee



Photo courtesy of murraystate.edu

Mallory Woolridge completes her Fulbright Program as an English teaching assistant in Germany.



Erinn Finley/The News

The Honors college is located on the 3rd floor of the Lowry Center and handles national scholarships.

review, and then students submit the application in October.

Woolridge mentioned how helpful that class was in the Student and Alumni Highlight.

“I was intimidated by the prospect of applying to the Fulbright, but the Honors College staff helped turn my passions and experiences into a coherent and compelling story.”

At the end of the interview, Woolridge encouraged students to spend time abroad.

“You will learn things about yourself and other humans more quickly than in possibly any other setting,” Woolridge said. “Even better if you can find a group like the Honors

College or Murray State’s Education Abroad Office to help you do it.”

Suiter highlighted the Fulbright Program is available to all students, not just those in the Honors College.

“I would just say if you as a student want to be abroad and want to experience different things within the world, basically, and interested in Fulbright overall, please reach out to us because we’d love to help you fulfill your dreams in studying abroad,” Suiter said.

Students interested in contacting the Honors College can find information at murraystate.edu/honorscollege.

UKRAINE, from page 1

While talking about the war, Sudyma debunked Russian propaganda about the war, which largely boiled down to the language used to describe the war and the relationship between Ukraine and Russia.

“It is important to acknowledge who is the aggressor here, so calling it a conflict is wrong,” Sudyma said. “It’s not like somebody arguing, so it’s not right to call it [a conflict].”

Along with discussing terminology, such as “war” and “conflict,” Sudyma reminded event-goers this invasion was not the beginning of the war between Russia and Ukraine but instead the most recent climatic part of the Russo-Ukrainian War timeline.

I wanted to [reach] as many people as I could and share a different, Ukrainian point of view, to share my love for my country, my grief and anger.

”

— Yaroslava Sudyma, Junior aerospace engineering major

Sudyma highlighted the language she was advising against wasn’t just vocabulary but perspective, citing how news outlets refer to the war as “Putin’s war” after Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Photo courtesy of murraystate.iso on Instagram

Ukrainian student Yaroslava Sudyma presents videos from news outlets covering the war in Ukraine to give attendees a timeline of the invasion.

“It is wrong to call it Putin’s war,” Sudyma said. “Putin isn’t killing all of the civilians. Putin isn’t destroying our houses. Putin is not piloting the jets or driving the tanks.”

It is a Russian war, Sudyma said, and she wishes Russians who are against the war would step up and protest against their country’s government.

“Russians could have protested,” Sudyma said. “There are more than 100 million of them in Russia...and it’s also wrong to call us the brother

nation because of Russian propaganda,” Sudyma said. “It gives the idea...we are like some smaller brother to Russia again. It denies our independence, and it also reduces the war to some inside conflict.”

Beyond the war, Sudyma dived into Ukraine’s history and culture, which gave an insight into Ukraine’s history, their fight for independence and the meaning behind their national flag.

“Some people say the Ukrainian flag represents wheat fields—the

yellow part—and the sky—the blue part,” Sudyma said.

Overall, Sudyma enjoyed the opportunity to talk about her home and clear up some of the misinformation she sees being reported.

“I just hope that the media will stop listening to and retelling Russian propaganda and Russian points of view,” Sudyma said. “I wanted to [reach] as many people as I could and share a different, Ukrainian point of view, to share my love for my country, my grief and anger.”

Our View:

Executive order keeps campuses safe, gun free

Murray State has been praised by Safewise as one of the safest colleges in the United States, but a new bill presented by the Kentucky legislature jeopardizes that title. House Bill 542, introduced by Kentucky Rep. Savannah Maddox, R-Dry Ridge on Feb. 22, would remove the ability of college campuses to create gun-free zones and would allow anyone over the age of 21 to have a concealed carry firearm on a college campus.

Maddox originally wrote the bill about workforce development, but it swiftly changed when it came time for debate. An amendment made by Rep. Walker Thomas, R-Hopkinsville, morphed the purpose of the bill into a dangerous expansion of the Second Amendment.

The authors cited the Michigan State and Virginia Tech mass shootings as reasons for passing the bill.

“I think that Virginia Tech and Michigan State both provide a perfect example of how it is that law-abiding citizens have been prevented from defending themselves,” said Maddox in an interview with Spectrum News.

Campus police officers are already armed and trained in protecting college students. Safety should be in the hands of professionally trained campus resource officers, not a group of 21-year-olds who just got permission to keep their guns.

We at *The News* do not agree with the flawed reasoning of HB 542. The answer to gun violence is not to flood our college campuses with more guns.

This bill was actually used as a shell bill to further the real goal of expanding the rights of gun owners in Kentucky. Shell bills are bills that sound good at first



Wesley Hammer/*The News*

glance, but as soon as the bill is debated in the chambers, the title and body paragraphs are amended to something completely different. Legislators do this to push controversial legislature through with little time for debate or opposition to the bill.

Gun legislation is the type of legislation that should be carefully reviewed, not rushed through in a selfish attempt to expand Kentuckians’ Second Amendment rights.

Maddox has since removed HB 542 from the Kentucky House docket because of an executive order made by President Joe Biden regarding mass shootings and the dangers of gun violence. Biden, via executive order, is now recommending background checks for gun owners and exploring the options and benefits of enacting red flag laws. Red flag laws temporarily restrict a person from owning or purchasing a firearm if they are at risk of harming themselves or harming others.

This bill has been universally condemned by presidents of Kentucky universities and campus police officers alike. The University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University and Northern Kentucky University have made statements against the bill with worries about the presence of guns endangering the safety of its students. Murray State did not make a statement.

President of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education Aaron Thompson has also spoken out against HB 542. Thompson warned an increased presence of guns on college campuses will lead to increased levels of self-harm among students and the severity of violent acts. We at *The News* share the same worries.


Only 11 states have lifted restrictions placed by college campuses, allowing people over the age of 21 to have a concealed carry firearm. The idea of concealed carry on college campuses


is not consistent with the opinions of college presidents and campus police. Opposition to this bill should be bipartisan to protect our college students and this should be obvious to Kentucky’s legislators.


Concealed carry for college students also poses a threat to free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment. The presence of a gun and a state having more lax gun restrictions are more likely to restrict free speech, having a chilling effect on the expression of freedom of speech, according to research conducted by the ACLU. People are less likely to be open with their opinions if they know someone in the crowd who disagrees with them could be carrying a gun and could harm them.


HB 542 sets a dangerous precedent for the safety of our college campuses. Our lawmakers should care more about protecting our students from gun violence than carelessly expanding the rights of gun owners.



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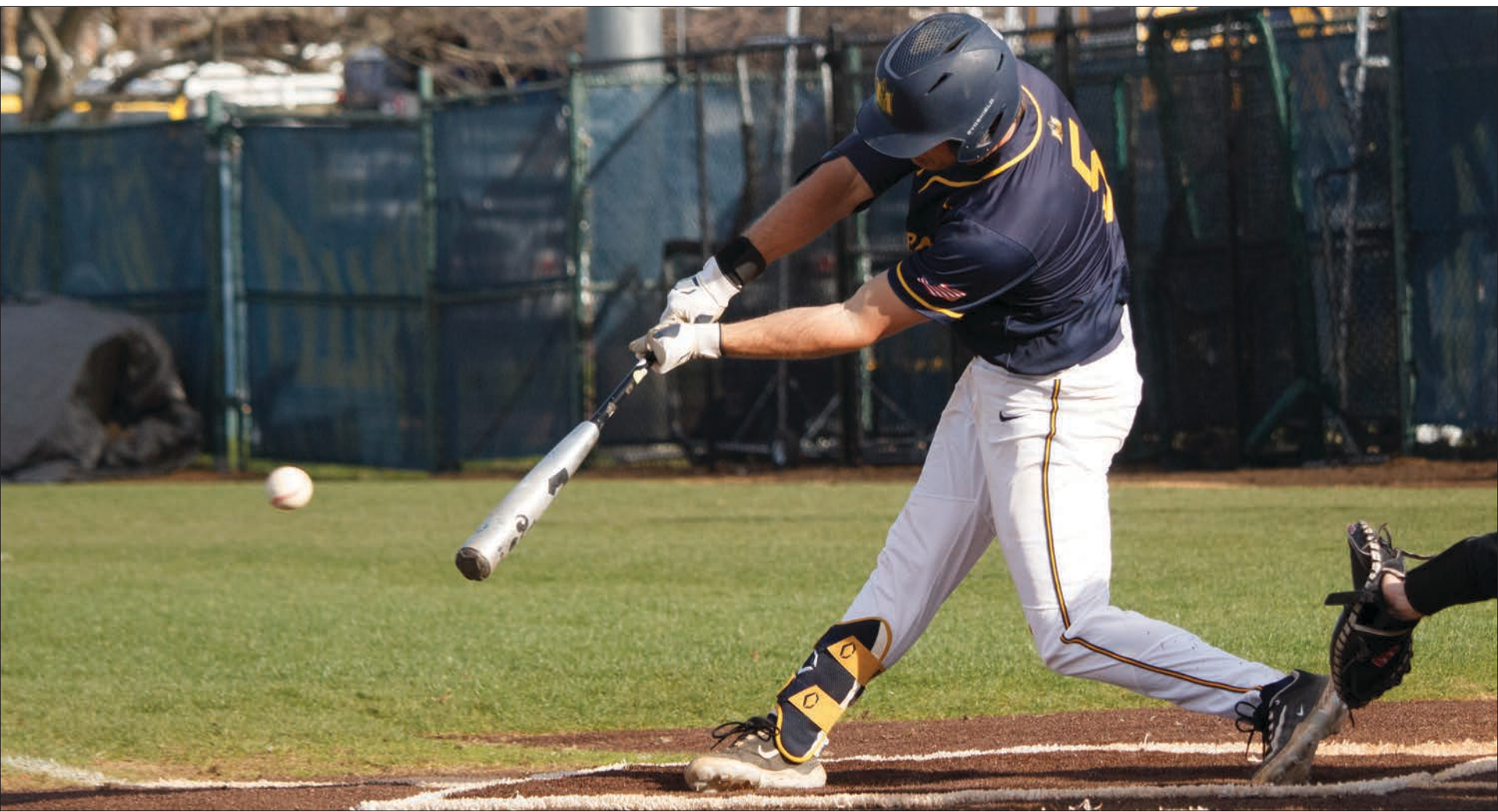
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The News strives to be the University community’s source for information. Our goal is to present that information in a fair and unbiased manner and provide a free and open forum for expression and debate.

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Rebeca Mertins Chiodini/*The News*
Junior outfielder Cade Sammons hits a single to bring junior infielder Drew Vogel home, giving the Racers a 1-0 lead. The Racers defeated the Northern Alabama Lions 9-6 on Tuesday, March 14.

Baseball swings its way to road victory

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After taking a weekend series over University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Murray State baseball team picked up a win over University of North Alabama on Tuesday, March 14. Despite striking out 11 times to the Lions’ pitching, the Racers drew 12 walks and had 11 hits in the game, defeating the Lions 9-6. While the Racers drew two walks to start the game, they failed to bring either home. The score remained 0-0 until the Racers came up to bat in the top of the second inning. With two runners on base, junior outfielder Cade Sammons hit a single to center field that brought junior infielder Drew Vogel around to score and put the Racers up 1-0 early. The lead didn’t hold for long, as

the Lions scored a pair in the bottom of the third. Freshman short-stop Gehrig Frei doubled into left-center field to score junior catcher Levi Jensen and freshman infielder Jackson Ferrigno, making it 2-1 North Alabama. Junior infielder Logan Bland tied the game up at 2 with a solo home run in the top of fourth. Then, sophomore catcher Charlie Corum gave Murray State the lead back by scoring on a wild pitch, making it 3-2. More runs piled on for the Racers in the top of the fifth, as Vogel hit a double that allowed sophomore infielder Carson Garner to score from second base. Another single from Sammons brought in Vogel and junior catcher Taylor Howell, while Bland scored on a throwing error on the play. In the top of the sixth inning, Howell added a hit and a run on the board with a single up the

middle to bring in junior infielder Jacob Pennington. When the sixth inning came to a close, the Racers were on top 8-2. The bottom of the seventh was where the Lions began to mount a comeback, as Frei drew a bases-loaded walk to send Ferrigno home. Senior infielder Peyton Thomas scored, thanks to a sacrifice fly from graduate infielder Kyle Machado, which cut the Racers’ lead to four runs. Senior infielder Drew Hudson started the bottom of the eighth inning with a double to bring in graduate utility player Andrew Knight for another run. Then, Ferrigno singled to bring Hudson in from second to make it 8-6, with the Racers holding to the lead. Big, in the top of the ninth, Vogel sealed the deal for the Racers with a sacrifice flyout that allowed Garner to score to put the Racers up by three runs.

With a scoreless bottom of the ninth inning, the Racers left Florence, Alabama, with a 9-6 win over the Lions. Sammons, Garner and Bland each had two hits, while five other Racers each recorded a hit. Sammons led the way with three RBIs in four at-bats, while also drawing two walks. Knight, Ferrigno and Jensen all recorded two hits, while Frei had three RBIs in the game. The Lions struck out eight times compared to the Racers’ 11 but had nine hits to the Racers’ 11 hits. Murray State improves to 7-10 on the season. The Racers host one more three-game series against the University of Southern Indiana before playing Austin Peay in game one of a “home-and-home” series. First pitch for game one of the Southern Indiana series is set for 3 p.m. on Friday, March 17.

Shann Riley/*The News*
Photo courtesy of RacerAthletics

8TH

2322 SMALLBORE

2366 AIR RIFLE

4688 AGGREGATE



Softball splits home tourney, takes down WIU

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The Racers hosted the Youngstown State Penguins and the Illinois State Redbirds on Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11 in the Racer Classic at Racer Field. Murray State split the weekend, going 2-2. The Racers are now 14-9 on the season as they move past the invitational portion of their schedule. The first game of the invitational came against the Redbirds at 12:30 p.m. on Friday. Illinois State scored five runs in the top of the second inning to jump out to a large early lead. The Racers were able to retaliate in the bottom of the second after redshirt junior infielder Lily Fischer scored on a Redbird error. Illinois State added onto the team's lead in the sixth inning with a two-run home run and ultimately won the game 7-1. Freshman pitcher Bre Haislip received the loss. She started the game, but pitched two innings after giving up two hits, two walks and five earned runs. She struck four batters out. Four Racers were walked, and the team was only able to record a single hit throughout the seven-inning contest. Sophomore outfielder Erin Lackey had the lone hit and one of the four walks. Junior catcher Taylor Jackson, freshman outfielder Bailey Broemmer and Fischer also walked. The second game of the invitational for the Racers came against Youngstown State at 3 p.m. on Friday. After a scoreless first inning, Fischer got the ball rolling for the Racers in the second with a single to start the inning. She then advanced to second base on a passed ball. A groundout then allowed her to get to third base. Redshirt senior infielder Lindsey Carroll then flew out to center field, enabling

Fischer to score on a sacrifice fly. Freshman designated hitter Riley Jestadt then drove redshirt senior infielder Gracie Osbron in with a single in the fourth inning to improve the Racers' lead to 2-0. The Penguins got on the board after a Murray State error in the fifth inning, but they were unable to score again. The Racers won the matchup 2-1. Redshirt junior pitcher Jenna Veber got the win for the Racers, pitching all seven innings and allowing four hits and a walk. She struck six batters out in the win. The Racers recorded five hits in their second game of the day. Freshman outfielder Adison Hicks, freshman infielder Ailey Schyck, Osbron, Fischer and Jestadt each had a hit against the Penguins. The Racers' third game of the invitational came against Youngstown State at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, and the contest was held scoreless until the bottom of the fourth inning. Carroll got the inning started as she got on base by a walk. A few batters later, Broemmer tripled to left field to drive Carroll in. Lackey then doubled down the left field line in the next at-bat to drive Broemmer home. These two runs were all that was needed, as the Penguins were held scoreless for the entire game, and the Racers picked up a 2-0 win over Youngstown State. Redshirt senior pitcher Hannah James got the start and win for the Racers, pitching the entire game. She only allowed a single hit—no runs and no walks—and she struck out 11 of the 23 batters she faced. Lackey had two hits and a RBI in the Racers' second game against the Penguins. Hicks, Fischer and Broemmer each also had a hit. Broemmer boosted her statline by adding an RBI. The final game of the invitational was at 3 p.m. on Saturday against the Illinois State Redbirds.



Sophomore infielder Erin Lackey hits a single in the Racers' win over Western Illinois on Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Racer Athletics

The Redbirds were able to score three times in the fourth inning and three more times in the sixth inning before the Racers were even able to get onto the board. Fischer drove Osbron in after hitting a single to give the Racers their lone run of the game. Murray State fell to Illinois State 6-1 to close out the tournament. Freshman pitcher Ava Ozmont received the loss for the Racers, pitching 3.1 innings and allowing two earned runs, two hits and four walks. Osbron recorded two hits in the loss. Hicks and Fischer hit the Racers' other two hits of the game. The Racers then hosted the Western Illinois University Bulldogs on Wednesday, March 15 in a sunny, yet chilly matchup on Racer Field. The Bulldogs were 6-18 as they made their way to play the Racers. Lackey singled to right field to start off the game. She then stole second to get into scoring position after two Racers struck out. The stolen base didn't end up being too crucial though, as Fischer homered to give the Racers a 2-0 lead. These runs would end up being the only ones scored for the rest of the game. The Racers defeated the Bulldogs 2-0. The Racers used three pitchers in the win, combining for four strikeouts and no earned runs allowed. They allowed three hits and a walk in the shutout. Fischer's first inning home run was the game deciding hit that gave Murray State the win. Besides Fischer, Lackey, Osbron and Schyck each had a hit as well. Broemmer had two hits in the win over the Bulldogs. The Racers start the conference portion of their schedule at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 17 as they play the University of Northern Iowa. The two teams will play at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 18 and at noon on Sunday, March 19.

Murray State

ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

Shann Riley/The News

MARCH 17
Baseball vs. Southern Indiana @ Murray, KY 3 p.m.
Softball vs. Northern Iowa @ Murray, KY 5 p.m.
MARCH 18
Tennis vs. Valparaiso @ Murray, KY 1 p.m.
Baseball vs. Southern Indiana @ Murray, KY 2 p.m.
Softball vs. Northern Iowa @ Murray, KY 2 p.m.
MARCH 19
Women's Golf vs. UAB @ Gulf Shores, AL ALL DAY
Softball vs. Northern Iowa @ Murray, KY 12 p.m.
Baseball vs. Southern Indiana @ Murray, KY 1 p.m.
Women's Tennis vs. Bradley @ Murray, KY 1 p.m.
MARCH 20
Women's Golf vs. UAB @ Gulf Shores, AL ALL DAY
Men's Golf vs. Missouri State @ Springfield, MO ALL DAY
MARCH 21
Women's Golf vs. UAB @ Gulf Shores, AL ALL DAY
Men's Golf vs. Missouri State @ Springfield, MO ALL DAY
Baseball vs. Austin Peay @ Murray, KY 5 p.m.
MARCH 22
Softball vs. Belmont @ Murray, KY 3 p.m.

Senior Gracie Osbron, softball
Photo courtesy of David Eaton

For more information
visit **GoRacers.com**

Hunt Team heads to postseason finals in Georgia

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As the 2023 Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) Hunt Team show concluded for the season, two members of the team advanced to the last stage in Savannah, Georgia, before nationals.

This final round of postseason competitions, called “the Zones,” are before IHSA’s national finals. In order to move on to nationals, participants will need to place second or higher in their given categories.

Hunt Team Co-Captain Mary Price advanced to the Zones. She said she is happy to be returning.

“I am thrilled to be advancing to Zone 5 Finals once again this year and am so incredibly thankful for my teammates, coaches, parents and MSU horses who all contributed to getting me [this far], and [Co-Captain] Amelia Sauls, who also qualified,” Price said. “I honestly feel so blessed to have made it this far two years in a row that anything else is simply icing on the cake. It would certainly be a dream come true to be able to represent Murray State at the national level.”

Murray State’s Hunt Team as a whole placed fourth in the region out of nine teams.

“IHSA is unique in that it attempts to ‘level the playing field’ among equestrians,” Price said. “Horse shows always go by so fast that it’s honestly just a blur. I remember hearing my name and thinking, ‘Oh, wait, that’s me,’ and giving the horse I rode, Louie, a big pat to say ‘thank you.’”

Upon arrival, the jump riders are allowed to walk the course on foot and watch the noncompeting riders warm up the horses. However, participants are not allowed to practice or warm up beforehand, and the



Photo courtesy of Mary Price

Students from the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association Hunt Team compete at regional finals on March 7 at Sewanee: The University of the South.

moment they mount their horse, the judging begins.

Sauls said she thought the season had been fun, but challenging.

“We have traveled several weekends and have had to balance practice with school work,” Sauls said. “Each show weekend involves packing into several vans with all our personal gear, driving to the hosting school and early days on Saturdays and Sundays. It has all been worth it to be at this point, though, and I am so excited to be heading to Savannah and representing Murray State.”

Compared to other equestrian events, hunt team riders use English saddles, which is lighter and more streamlined than the western saddles one would see at a rodeo or on a vacation trail ride.

“It is all judged on how you ride, your position, your technique and how easy you make riding that horse

looks,” Sauls said. “We are not given any practice rides on the horses, and it’s literally the luck of the draw with who you pull and ride. If we bring horses to a show, and we draw our own horses, that is good for us since we know their quirks and needs. Some of my favorite draws are Big Rig and Duncan from Murray State and Winston from University of the South, who gave me my winning round.”

A common term used in Hunt Team is “flat class,” which refers to a type of competition hosted in IHSA, where riders exhibit basic horsemanship, technique and positioning at a walk, trot and canter. In an “over-the-fence class,” riders handle a jump course, jumping heights from 2-3 feet.

Sauls referred to the competition as a game of “Simon says” on horseback.

“I have never made it to Zones before,” Sauls said. “I have made it as far as regionals in [Interscholastic Equestrian Association] at home in high school but have missed the cut-off for Zones by one placing before. This is a first for me and is very exciting.”

Senior Carylynn Akers, who placed third in the Novice Flat class, said she considered the season to be a successful one.

“To prepare for these shows, we switch what horses we ride each week in practice so that we get to experience more than one horse and become knowledgeable on how to handle different types of horses when we ride,” Akers said. “Though all of us on the team have our favorites that we like to spend a little extra time with when we can.”

This year’s Zones takes place on April 1 at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Shakespeare festival explores grief through ‘Hamlet’

Ava Chuppe
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The Department of English and Philosophy held its annual Shakespeare Festival from March 8 to 10, which brought in K-12 students from the surrounding community for performances of “Hamlet” in Lovett Auditorium.

The festival also incorporated events intended for University students and the wider community, including a psychology panel titled “Hamlet and the Best Methods for Coping with Grief.” The event featured Psychology Professors Michael Bordieri and Gage Jordan, Counseling Center Director Angie Trzepacz and Festival Chair Rusty Jones as moderator.

Following the psychology panel, actors from Kentucky Shakespeare led an acting workshop called “Hip Hop Shakespeare” at Playhouse in the Park.

A student-led discussion panel from Jones’ Shakespeare class spoke at Waterfield Library on the day of the final “Hamlet” performance.

Sophomore creative writing major Hannah Foote, who presented in the “Ophelia’s Message: Flowers, the First Emoji” discussion panel, said the panel gave students a rare opportunity to present their work.

“As a student, I felt like I was both responsible for the grade...but also that I had a further responsibility to the community I was presenting to,” Foote said. “There’s a lot of professors out there who might not read essays thoroughly, and a lot



Photo courtesy of @kyshakespeare on Instagram

Members from the Kentucky Shakespeare Company pose outside of their van before the beginning of their ‘Hamlet tour,’ which started in Murray.

of students realize that, and they feel like their work’s just not being appreciated.”

After her presentation, Foote said she engaged in discussions with other students about the character of Ophelia.

“When you have the opportunity to be a part of a panel like that, you get to see not only that your work is heard but that it is understood and that people are interested in it,” Foote said.

Foote said the performance made studying Shakespeare more digestible.

“It was truly wonderful to see a variety of actors from different locations come to Murray and to

see how they were trained,” Foote said. “That really helps students like me who are studying Shakespeare, but I think it also helps students who aren’t necessarily familiar...to not be daunted by the sheer mass of the volume, especially since it was condensed.”

The English Student Organization hosted a dinner before seeing “Hamlet.” Some of the involved students sat in chairs placed on the stage, which senior professional writing major Danica Fuerst said reminded her of performing the play in the past.

“It was cool,” Fuerst said. “It was interesting because I’ve actually played Hamlet before in a very

abridged version that was an hour long, so it was kind of like reliving that a little bit.”

Fuerst said sitting onstage provided a unique perspective.

“It was interesting to have that halfway perspective between watching it from the audience and being part of it, especially having experience kind of being part of it,” Fuerst said.

Foote said she appreciated and related to the emotion portrayed in the performance.

“The actors did a wonderful job, and Dr. Jones really did a good job of bringing the Shakespeare Festival together,” Foote said. “I’m really happy to see it back.”

slowthai unravels his deepest thoughts on ‘UGLY’

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Like a searing headrush, slowthai’s “UGLY” thrashes and rages down experimental avenues of punk and electronic, blending aggression and introspection. Frampton pounds his fist through the drywall in a psychological and creative purge.

Tyron Kaymone Frampton, professionally known as slowthai, sprouted as a rowdy icon: his stage name was originally the Brexit Bandit. Frampton talked politics, drug addiction and poverty in his 2019 debut album, “Nothing Great About Britain.”

Frampton became a voice for a politically frustrated and let-down younger generation. On “UGLY,” he feels as if he’s looking into the mirror as a creative and feels stuck in his red-blooded and disorderly persona.

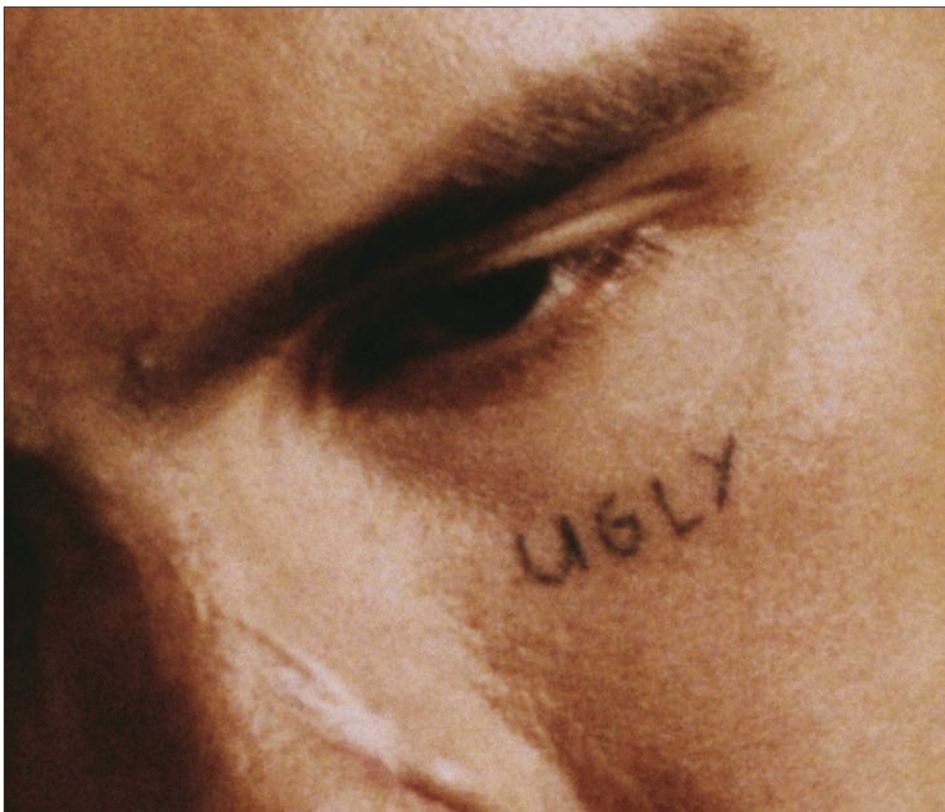
In his sophomore album “TYRON,” Frampton maintained a sense of debut rebelliousness, but also addressed some of his acts the public critiqued and a more delicate, romantic side to his persona. After “TYRON” was released, Frampton found himself in a slump.

“I was quiet and down and wasn’t finding anything exciting,” Frampton said in an Apple Music interview. “Delving into this gave me that freedom again. I felt inspired. I wanted to do something new and challenge myself rather than just doing what’s expected of me.”

“Yum” opens the 12-track album with a panic attack. Frampton is breathing hard while repeating the mantra, “You’re a genius.”

A pounding beat interrupts Frampton’s chant, and he begins to talk about his lack of motivation. It feels as if his face is only a couple inches away from a bathroom mirror, saying these lyrics to his reflection.

“Yum” doesn’t just slightly guide the listener into the atmosphere of “UGLY”; it jerks them. In the song, Frampton is open about his mental state and talks about his experience with therapy sessions, self destruction and alcoholism.



‘UGLY’ released on Friday, March 3 under Method Records.

Album cover courtesy of Spotify.com

“Selfish” relaxes the tone, opening with a guitar and a punk attitude. However, the calm tone rises aggression as Frampton reveals his cynical world outlook. His peers and those around him seem to view his outlook as selfish.

With his voice and attitude, Frampton fits in well with a rowdy rock backdrop. Toward the end of the song, Frampton’s voice softens as he dives into nihilism about life being a cycle of people not learning from their mistakes.

“Sooner” keeps to that punky sound, but it feels lighter. Frampton still talks about heavy personal topics, such as suicide, failure and feeling misunderstood, to a jingle-like tone.

Despite the overwhelming lyrics, “Sooner” is still one of the lighter moments on the album. I enjoy Frampton’s casualness. It breaks the aggression and reminds listeners these feelings are an everyday matter.

“Feel Good” has a light feeling and details moments of Frampton possibly lying to those around him. He says, “I feel so good,” yet there are overwhelming feelings bubbling under the surface.

Frampton also dives into the persona he has been assigned by the public, singing, “tears of a clown every time I cry.” It feels as though he’s trapped as a comic, and people would not expect serious feelings from him.

In “F**k It Puppet,” Frampton is back to rapping. Over the short song, Frampton is having a conversation with himself. He goes in between wanting to harm himself and wanting to get better. The voice in his head pretends to be his friend yet provokes Frampton to act carelessly.

Frampton acknowledges bottling up his feelings isn’t healthy on “HAPPY,” realizing he wants to get better and feel the happiness he’s felt in the past.

In the second half of the song, Frampton dives into a spoken word sound.

Despite trying to understand these negative feelings, Frampton still does not know how to healthily handle emotions, and in the end, he contemplates running away.

Frampton’s layered vocals feel sleepy and disjointed in the intro of “UGLY.” The chorus features him spelling “ugly” 10 times in a row. He does this four times—four times too many,

especially since Frampton just finished spelling “happy” on “HAPPY.”

Although the spelling feels lazy and repetitive, the verses in-between really shine. Frampton talks about the ugliness he feels, but also the ugliness he sees in the world.

The album ends on a delicate note in “25% Club,” and Frampton’s lyricism is a highlight, using metaphors and similes. but, as an end note to a project with intense highs, it feels underwhelming.

Frampton talks about a relationship that seems to be helping him through his depression, but it feels odd he starts this journey by himself, then ends with a partner who seems to be keeping him afloat.

By the end, of course, I’m expecting all of Frampton’s problems to feel resolved and for the initial rage to be readdressed, but that doesn’t happen. In his Apple Music interview, Frampton said the song is about wanting, longing and feeling as if he is missing 25% of himself.

With this partner, he feels 100% present. This is not the note to end on, and I wanted to see more introspection for the finale.

Overall, Frampton doesn’t do poorly addressing his mental turmoil, but he fails to come full circle. Despite this, Frampton does a great job of leaning into a more punk and alternative sound.

One element I would like to see Frampton abandon is his repetitiveness. For multiple songs—“UGLY,” “Feel Good,” “Falling” and “Wotz Funny”—the choruses are just a repetition of words or spellings; it feels as if Frampton could have explored more in his lyrics.

“UGLY” is an ambitious and vulnerable third album from Frampton, and I wouldn’t mind seeing him continue to take this sound down an alternative route.

Additionally, a man addressing mental well-being through such a candid lens isn’t common, so I applaud him.

“UGLY” deserves a 6.5 out of 10. With his current experimentation, I look forward to what Frampton has in line next.

OMAS hosts annual juried student art exhibit



The OMAS show opened on Tuesday, March 14th in the Clara M. Eagle Gallery. The Organization of Murray Art Students (OMAS) show is an annual juried exhibition. Senior studio art major Laurie Snellen won the award for “Best in Show.” Junior graphic design major Sydney Robinson received the second place award and junior studio art major Wesley Hammer received third place. Submissions for the OMAS show were open to all Murray State Students. This year’s juror was Murray State alumna Claudia Dishon. The exhibition is open through March 27. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Clockwise from left) Students, Faculty and community members at the gallery reception; Snellen with her first place piece titled “Self Inflicted Pyre”; Robinson with her second place piece titled “Ashes to Ashes”; and Hammer with their third place piece titled “Sit With Me.”